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[www.southernoregonlivesteamers.com](http://www.southernoregonlivesteamers.com)

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President: Dale Butler  
541-582-3912

Vice President: Tony Johnson  
541-944-9176

Secretary: Pat Butler  
541-582-3912

Treasurer: Paul Sheedy  
541-471-3016

Const. Superintendent: Lee Parrish  
541-659-2555

Special Run Scheduling: Jan Pollin  
541-855-5485

**Rules of the Month**

**Rule 1-1:** Locomotives and equipment shall be unloaded and loaded only at the facilities provided for such unloading and loading. All vehicles shall be removed from the loading area as soon as possible after loading and unloading.

**Rule 1-2:** All Club-owned material and equipment is for the use of members & guests at the Club facility ONLY, and shall not be removed from the Club facility without specific permission from the Board of Directors. This includes fuel, cars, locomotives, tools, materials, etc.

**Rule 1-4:** Club locomotives may be used to pull steam locomotives to and from the barn, to and from the steaming bays and fueling spurs, and used to pull a work train. Other uses will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

**Rule 1-6:** Any Club member may request the use of a Club locomotive for a special family birthday or picnic.

**NEXT SOLS MEETING**

**Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 P.M. at the model railroad clubhouse.**

**Minutes from the Jan. 24, 2014 SOLS Membership Meeting**

Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm. Twenty-five members present.

Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved with the following correction: E. Don was in charge of the parking lot for the Polar Express; not Carol and Dick Stark.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The report is attached to these minutes, however, it should be noted that the club received a check from the Rotary Club for the Polar Express in the amount of \$1386.38. Also there was \$105.00 in the donation jars.

**TRACK SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Beginning at the unloading platform, 1200 feet of mainline has been adjusted and realigned. This job will be completed by the end of March. At the same time ties are being marked for replacement.

Tony has begun to disassemble the track panels, given to the club from the Julius Blenke Estate. The curved panels are 5 feet long and have a radius too sharp for our needs. The rails are like new, and the majority of the ties can be used for secondary trackage. There is a low-speed mainline stretch that Tony will re-bend the donated rails and connect numerous five-foot sections into one continuous curve of over 100 feet; replacing worn outside rail at that spot. All lengths of straight rail will be sorted and stored for future use. Elvin and Tony plan to make a permanent pathway across the yard tracks, making it more useable by everyone.

**ELECTRICAL REPORT:** Rocky and Dean worked on the signals Saturday, Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, repairing one of the signals.

**ROUNDHOUSE REPORT:** In the absence of Art, Dale reported that he and Mike will pick up both Paul's and Rocky's locomotives for maintenance and repairs.

**CONSTRUCTION REPORT:** Nothing to report except that Lee plans to have the electrical system checked in the Beanery and will have more useable outlets installed.

**LANDSCAPE REPORT:** Elvin is cleaning up debris caused by winter in general. The ordering of two loads of ballast at a cost of \$350.00 was approved. This will be spread on top the vehicle roadway in our area of Railroad Park.

**BEANERY REPORT:** Nothing new to report. Proposed price changes are under "New Business".

**[Minutes continued]**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Birthday Runs will begin on March 1, and end on October 31. There will be no more than two special runs a day, no Birthday runs after 3 P.M., and no Birthday runs on Sunday. Charlie moved to approve and Lee Second. Motion carried, with one "no" vote.

It was proposed that the Beanery raise some of its prices. Taking into consideration that the Beanery should share in the general expenses, such as electric power and insurance, and the extra expenses such as a new freezer, new pop corn machine, new counter top, etc., therefore the price of Hot Dogs is raised to \$1.50. All other price increases are attached to these minutes. Paul S. so moved and John P. second. Vote was taken by the raising of hands. The Motion carried with a majority yes vote of 16.

Our received a check for our participation in the Railroad Show in the amount of \$1,819.00.

The old golf cart needs to be replaced. Since Elvin uses it for everything, including the parking lot duty, Dale was authorized to purchase a replacement golf cart by taking the funds out of the Engine fund.

Dale reminded us that our donation for the use of the H.O. building is now due and payable.

The portable toilet will be delivered April 1.

Elvin gave a presentation for moving the fence behind the H.O. club building. This action will benefit the H.O. club in making access to their back door, and more picnic tables can be placed in the shade. Also this will also prevent the homeless from using part of this space as their "bathroom". The City has approved this action and Live Steamers will pay half of the bill, which is \$440.00.

Bruce Kelly has handed in a Rough Draft of the rewritten Rules and Bylaws for the club.

The trim on some of the buildings needs painting. The new car barn No. 4 extension and some of the other buildings are in need of painting. Dale has asked for volunteers to help with this.

Rocky is Chairman of the Election Committee. The Committee met and discussed the nominees.

- ◇ Dale Butler nominated for President
- ◇ Tony Johnson nominated for Vice-President
- ◇ Patricia Butler nominated for Secretary
- ◇ Carol Stark nominated for Treasurer

The Nominations will be published in the Newsletter and the Election will take place in March. The new board will begin its duties in April.

At 8:15 Charlie moved we adjourn, and Lee second. The motion carried.

**POST POLAR EXPRESS** As you've read in the January 2014 *MANIFEST*, the first ever SOLS-Medford Rogue Rotary *Polar Express* event was overwhelmingly successful for both organizations. As a result our club's share of the proceeds came to \$1,386.38. This is derived only from the ticket sales for train rides only and nothing else. Also there was an additional \$105.00 in donations visitors dropped in our jars.

Perhaps one of the greatest rewards was hearing praises from so many people about what we did. One of the nicest responses came to us from a woman named Randi. She sent the following letter to our Live Steamers web site.

*"Hello! I wanted to write to let you know how much me and my son enjoyed your Polar Express shindig. We have been through a very hard year and half. I left his father in April of 2012 do to his meth use and physical abuse and over the last year have fought many court battles against him, [and] my son is in extensive counseling because of the trauma. On top of that I am now raising him alone, and a struggling nursing student. We don't have much this Christmas. Not near enough to make it as wonderful as I feel my son deserves for all that he sacrifices and for what he has lost of his childhood. But I got to see him be a little boy again tonight (He's 8 by the way.) I got to see my sad little boys eyes light up again as we went around and around on your train, and I got to feel like a little girl again and get some seasons joy back after all the joy that was taken from me. And thank you for making it so I could afford it. 4 dollars is nothing compared to the happiness you gave us tonight. Thank you from the bottoms of our heart and Merry Christmas from our family to yours."*

This letter was also displayed for all to see during the Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> Medford Rogue Rotary luncheon at the Inns at the Commons hotel [formerly Red Lion hotel] in Medford. Five SOLS members – Dale, Dave Herzog, Elvin Sinfield, E. Don Pettit and myself were invited by the rotary to attend the luncheon.

It is one thing for most of us to enjoy a nice quiet lunch with a few friends, but to have a catered lunch with 125 or so Rotarians is a different experience. When Elvin arrived he was perplexed by the sheer number of eating utensils besides each plate. I knew Elvin eats peas with a knife so I didn't try to explain what the other utensils were for. I did show him the large napkin we were using and Elvin said, "But, they're made of cloth!"

Our club was honored for all the cooperation we gave the Rotary in making the Polar Express such a huge success. It was at that point they presented Dale with a check for our train service at the Polar Express event.

A few Odds 'n Ends about the event. Soon after the event was over the Medford Rogue Rotary purchased over \$2,000 in more inflatable lighted Christmas displays for the next Polar Express event, as well as uses for other events. In a letter to the organizers from Dave Herzog, one suggestion was to perhaps sell hot chocolate outside the gate to people waiting in line to buy tickets. The event organizer wrote back they did do that the second night and sold over 1,000 cups of hot chocolate!!!

**NEW PLANS FOR RR PARK** Briefly mentioned in the minutes on Page 2 is a plan to expand our Live Steamers area by relocating a portion of the park boundary fence. The approved plan calls for eliminating the hidden, out-of-sight area on the south side of the public restrooms. Expansion of our new "playground" area we opened last year in a previously undeveloped piece of SOLS land, and new access to the Rogue Valley Model Railroad clubhouse.

Completion of this project will produce three benefits for Railroad Park. The first involves moving part of the existing fence to line up with the front of the public restroom. From there the fence will angle towards, and connect with the existing fence at the south end. This will eliminate the one area hidden from view from most of the parking lot and the outdoor pavilion area outside our gate. This hidden area, unfortunately, is often used by the homeless as their own "toilet" when the public restrooms are closed. It's bad enough during the off season, but the smell gets worse when the weather warms up. With the area now to be in plain sight we hope this mess will stop.

The second benefit will benefit the Live Steamers as it will expand the “playground area” to include a large shade tree that will be perfect for relocating our picnic tables out of the hot sun. In the future we hope to provide more picnic tables there.

The third benefit will be to the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club. This club is often overlooked by the visiting public because of its location at the south end of the parking lot. Much of the visiting public forgets it is there as they head for their cars in the parking lots. Relocating the fence, and after the model railroad club installs a second parallel fence to keep the public from accessing our tracks near Tunnel #1, there will be a more direct and visible way to get inside the clubhouse via their back door. All in all it appears this is a win for all involved.

A smaller project in planning is a new pathway between our Pump House and the middle station gate – the route most all of us use to reach the station. The existing pathway – if you can call it a “pathway” goes directly west from the Pump House to about the middle of the covered loading platform. Our proposed new pathway will be raised slightly, even in height with the railhead, have new crossings between the rails, and the whole pathway will angle directly to the station gate we all use. Not only will it look better than what is there now; it will be wider and easier to walk on. We hope to have it done by Opening Day.

**TRACKWORK NEWS** This year’s colder than normal winter would normally have a negative effect with track repairs, however, the overall good maintenance of our layout in the last five or so years has eliminated most of the deferred maintenance of prior years. What turned out to be a blessing in disguise was the good fall weather that enabled us to stay ahead in picking up leaves, branches, walnut pods, and pruning trees.

Last year I (Tony) couldn’t help Elvin much with the fall cleanup as I was constructing the new Thomas & Friends yard and Car Barn No. 5 tracks. About all I could help Elvin with was rounding up the leaves with my backpack leaf blower. This fall I, and a few other members, were able to give Elvin a lot of help. In fact, we cleaned up stuff that has been on the ground for many years. The SOLS layout will look even better this year.

Back to track maintenance. On account of our good track conditions I am, where necessary, realigning and leveling low spots all around the mainline. Fresh ballast is being applied where needed all around the mainline. As this newsletter goes to press I have resurfaced the first 1,200 or feet beyond the loading platform. I expect the entire mainline to be finished by the end of March.

As I do this I am also marking rotted and cracked ties for replacement later when the weather warms up. Also planned is to replace all the long ties on Black Widow Bridge, replace a few of the wood and rubber crossing mats between the rails, and eliminate a “hump” under one of the switches to the Thomas car barn.

**CHAPTER DUES DUE BY APRIL 1** Your yearly chapter dues for the period April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015 must be paid by April 1. Unlike in the past when some members had previously paid for more than one year, I believe this year nearly every membership needs to be renewed. To know when your membership expires, look at your mailing label. Most, if not all of you will have labels with the date “**Apr2014**” at the bottom. If that is your date you need to renew your membership by April 1, 2014 if you wish to continue in SOLS activities. Mail your renewals to the club’s post office box: SOLS, P.O. Box 1443, Medford, OR. 97501.

Annual Dues are:

**REGULAR [individual]** \$25 annual – 16 years or older

**ASSOCIATE [individual]** \$15 annual - 16 years of age or older and living 50 miles or more from the club.

**FAMILY** \$35 annual. Family membership is for member and spouse plus children through 15 years of age.

**STUDENT** [no fee] 16 years or younger with an existing member as sponsor.

**HONORARY** [no fee Life Member]

Upon receiving your dues renewal you will receive in the mail a new SOLS membership card for you, and any other person covered by your dues. Each card will have your name and a membership number on the card.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS** As stated in our by-laws the nomination of officers shall be made at the February membership meeting. The elected officers shall consist of a President, Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Elections shall be held at the March membership meeting.

A simple majority of the members present and eligible to vote is required to elect the officers. Elected officers shall take office on the April meeting following the election and serve through March of the following year, or until replaced.

There are two appointed officers: Construction Superintendent and the Track Superintendent. They will be appointed by a majority vote of the Board, and shall be a full Board member with all rights, duties and privileges thereof. Their terms of office is from the time of appointment until the next March 31st or until replaced.

As mentioned earlier, Dale Butler asked Rocky to head a nomination committee to find out if any or all the current officers are willing to serve again in their current positions. At the January 27th meeting he reported to the membership that three of the four current chapter officers have agreed to run again. They are: Dale Butler as president, Tony Johnson as vice-president, and Pat Butler as secretary.

Paul Sheedy announced he will not run again for treasurer. Rocky talked with Carol Stark and she has agreed to run for the position of Treasurer. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the March 24th membership meeting. The election will take place after the nominations are closed. If you wish to run for any position, you first need to find someone to submit your name at the March meeting. Anyone nominating a member **must first** get permission from the person.

**HEALTH CHECK** I've got good news and sad news. The good news concerns Rick Colclasure. Last time I told you he had a mild heart attack in November, and then the next month he fell on a icy sidewalk at the V.A. Dom and broke his upper right arm. I visited Rick at the V.A. infirmary on Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> and I'm happy to report his arm is no longer in a sling and is healing well. He also has lost (my guess here) about 30 pounds. He looks good.

The sad news concerns Charlie Nix. Last time I reported he had a small cancerous area inside his mouth. I was in error here as it is around his larynx. He has been diagnosed with Third Stage cancer, but it is treatable with radiation and chemotherapy. He flew up to the V.A. in Portland twice for tests, and will fly up again later this month to hopefully start the treatment. Keep Charlie in your prayers.



### **Live Steamers flashback to 1981-1982**

[Above] This spots looks so much different now. A train moves near the south fence where the Salvation Army lot is now. Beyond that is Hwy. 62.

[Top, left] A SOLS member works on the switch that routes trains to the yard or the loading ramp.

[Left, middle] Stepping back about 10 yards we see the SOLS member in the background. In the foreground is another switch that leads to the yard or the loading ramp.

[Left, bottom] The original metal loading ramp is at extreme left, and the empty space to the right is where today's trestle ramp will soon go. After installation the old metal ramp was removed and is now stored near the original car barn.